AIIM

Association for Information and Image Management

1100 Wayne Avenue, Suite 1100
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

301/587-8202

Centimeter

Inches

MANUFACTURED TO AIIM STANDARDS
BY APPLIED IMAGE, INC.

PROPOSED BASIS OF UNION,

BETWEEN

THE METHODIST CHURCH OF CANADA, THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN CANADA, THE PRIMITIVE METHODIST CHURCH IN CANADA, AND THE BIBLE CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF CANADA, AS FINALLY ADOPTED BY THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON UNION, DECEMBER 6TH, 1882.

I. DOCTRINE, GENERAL RULES, ORDINANCES, ETC.

The Doctrinal Basis of the proposed United Church shall be the Standards of Doctrine and Articles of Religion contained in the Book of Discipline of the Methodist Church of Canada, edition of 1879, from p. 13 to p. 21. That portion of the Book of Discipline of the said Methodist Church of Canada, edition of 1879, from p. 21 to p. 33, referring to General Rules, Ordinances, Reception of Members, and Means of Grace, is also adopted as part of the Basis.

II. CHURCH GOVERNMENT.

(I.) THE GENERAL CONFERENCE.

1. There shall be a Quadrennial General Conference, composed of an equal number of Ministerial and Lay Delegates, elected as hereinafter provided, with power to make rules and regulations for the entire Church. (See "Annual Conferences," par. 9.)

2. No change shall be made in the Basis of Union, affecting constitutional questions, or the rights and privileges of Ministry or Laity, except by a three-fourths majority of the General Conference, and, if required by either order of Ministry or Laity, a two-thirds majority of each order, voting separately.

3. There shall be one or more Itinerant General Superintendents elected by the General Conference, to hold office for the term of eight years. But, if it be decided at the meeting of the General Conference after Union to elect [illegible] General Superintendents, one of them shall be elected for four years only, so that there may be a recurring election or re-election every four years.

4. A General Superintendent shall preside over all Sessions of the General Conference, and over all Standing Committees of the same.

(II.) ANNUAL CONFERENCES.

1. The Territory occupied by the Church shall be divided into Conferences as the General Conference may from time to time direct.

2. Each Annual Conference shall be composed of all Ministers in Full Connexion within its bounds, and an equal number of Laymen, elected as elsewhere provided. (See "District Meetings," par. 6.)

3. Laymen elected shall have the right to be present at all ordinary Sessions of the Annual Conference, and to speak and vote on all questions, except the examination of Ministerial character and qualification; the Reception, by vote, of Probationers into Full Connexion, and their Ordination; and the granting of the Superannuated or Supernumerary relation, on which exceptive questions Ministers alone shall take action. In case any Minister's character shall be arrested, it shall be competent for the Ministerial members to meet in Special Session to examine into the case and pronounce judgment, reporting their action to the Mixed Conference,—such report to be for information and record, and not for discussion.

4. Each Annual Conference shall have authority to elect a President from among its Ministerial members.

5. The General Superintendent, when present, shall open the Annual Conference, and preside during the first day of its Sessions, and afterward alternately with the President elected by the Conference. In the absence of a General Superintendent, the President of the previous year shall take the Chair, and open the Conference. In association with the President, the General Superintendent shall conduct the Ordination Service, and they shall jointly sign the Ordination Parchments. But all other duties pertaining to the presidency of the Annual Conference shall be vested in the President elected by that body, and in the absence of the General Superintendent he shall conduct the Ordination.

6. The President of the Annual Conference shall be *ex-officio* Superintendent of the District in which he may be stationed during the year of his presidency.

7. The Annual Conference shall elect by ballot, without debate, a Secretary or Secretaries as the case may require.

8. The Annual Conference shall elect by ballot, without debate, a Superintendent for each District from among the ordained Ministers within the bounds of such District.

9. Each Annual Conference, at its Session next preceding the Session of each General Conference, shall divide into Ministerial and Lay Electoral Conferences, for the purpose of electing Delegates to the General Conference, each body electing its own Representatives. The Delegates shall be elected from within the bounds of said Conference, and the vote shall be by ballot.

10. Each Annual Conference shall have a Stationing Committee, composed of the President of the Conference (who shall preside in the Committee), the Superintendents of Districts, and one Minister elected by each District Meeting, such election to be by the joint votes of ministers and laymen.

11. Each Annual Conference shall have authority to elect into Full Connexion and ordain any Probationer within its bounds who has travelled four years and fulfilled all disciplinary requirements. Also, to elect and ordain Probationers of less than four years' standing, when the necessities of the work require it.

12. All preachers who have received ordination in any of the uniting bodies, and are in good standing at the time of the Union, shall retain all rights and privileges conferred by such ordination.

(III.) DISTRICT MEETINGS.

1. The territory occupied by each Annual Conference shall be divided into Districts.

2. Each Annual District Meeting shall consist of all the Ministers and Probationers for the ministry within its bounds, and one Lay Delegate for each Minister or Probationer in the active work, from each Circuit, Mission, or Station throughout the District; said Delegates to be elected by the Quarterly Meetings as hereinafter provided.

3. Each District shall be under the Supervision of a presiding officer, to be called the District Superintendent, who shall be elected by the Annual Conference, as elsewhere provided. He shall preside in the District Meetings, oversee the temporal and spiritual interests of the Church in his District; and, with the Ministers and probationers under his charge, shall administer and enforce the Discipline of the Church, being responsible therefor to the Annual Conference.

4. The District Superintendent shall fix the time and place of the *first* District Meeting, after which he shall fix the time, and the District Meeting shall fix the place. In the absence of the District Superintendent, the District Meeting shall elect from among its ministerial members, by ballot, without debate, a Chairman *pro. tem.*

5. The examination of ministerial character shall be the business of the first day of the District Meeting, and shall be confined to the ministerial members alone.

6. The Lay Members of the District Meeting shall meet separately sometime during the Session, and elect by ballot, without debate, Lay Representatives to the Annual Conference, in the proportion of one for each Minister in full connexion within

351

the bounds of the District. Laymen, to be eligible, must be at least twenty-five years of age, and must have been members of the Church in good standing for the five consecutive years next preceding the election.

(IV.) QUARTERLY MEETINGS.

1. There shall be a Quarterly Official Meeting on each Circuit, Mission or Station, consisting of the Ministers and Probationers for the Ministry, the Local Preachers, the Exhorters, the Circuit Stewards, the Leaders of Classes, the Superintendents of Sabbath Schools, (being members of the Church,) one Representative from each Board of Trustees, (he being a member of the Church); and also of additional Representatives who may have been appointed by the Societies of the Circuit. The apportionment, scale, and mode of election, shall be arranged by the fourth Quarterly Meeting of the year; but such additional Representatives shall not exceed the number of the Stewards on the Circuit.

2. The Superintendent of the Circuit shall be the Chairman of the Quarterly Meeting, except when the Superintendent of the District shall be present, in which case the latter may preside.

3. The Quarterly Meeting shall hear complaints, and receive and try appeals; recommend Candidates for the Ministry; manage and control Circuit finances; and discharge such other duties as the General Conference may from time to time determine.

4. The Quarterly Meeting shall, at the fourth regular meeting of the year, elect by ballot, without debate, the Lay Delegates to attend the ensuing Annual District Meeting, in the proportion of one Delegate for each Minister or Probationer in the active work on the Circuit.

NOTE.—Regulations concerning the Licensing of Local Preachers and Exhorters are referred to the first General Conference.

III. CHURCH PROPERTY.

Upon the ratification of the proposed Union, such legislation shall be obtained from Legislatures having competent jurisdiction, as shall vest in the United Church all property now held by, or in trust for, the respective Churches entering into the Union.

2. As it is probable that in some instances Church and Parsonage Property now in use will not be required, after the Union, for Church or Circuit purposes, it is recommended that a Committee, consisting of the District Superintendent, two Ministers and two Laymen, be appointed at the District Meeting on each District where any such property may be situated, who shall act conjointly with the Trustees on each Circuit in determining what property shall be retained for use, and what shall be sold.

3. In all cases where such Church or Parsonage Property may be so sold, the proceeds arising from the sale may be applied,—

(1) To the payment of any debts or claims upon or in respect of such property.

(2) To the payment of any debts upon the property retained for use by the Congregation formerly using the property so sold, or in building a new church or parsonage where necessary for the United Congregation.

(3) The balance, if any, to be applied, with the consent of the Trustees, to the use of the Church and Parsonage Aid Fund of the United Church, in the Annual Conference in which such property is situated.

NOTE.—The regulations contained in Clause 3 and its subsections, in so far as they apply to property held by the Bible Christian Church, shall be subject to the regulations adopted in regard to Church Funds respecting the debt of the Missionary Fund of said Church.

IV. CHURCH FUNDS.

(I.) *The Superannuation Fund.*—There shall be, in the United Church, a Superannuated Ministers' Fund for the Western Conferences, and a Supernumerary

Ministers' Fund for the three Conferences in the Maritime Provinces, which funds shall, for the present, be under the management of separate Boards, as has been the practice in the Methodist Church of Canada. As no change is deemed necessary in regard to the Supernumerary Fund of the Eastern Conferences, the recommendations which follow, save the final one, are to be understood as referring solely to the Superannuation Fund of the Western Conferences.

2. The Methodist Church of Canada having an invested capital for the three Western Conferences of over $91,000, it is agreed that the other Churches uniting shall supply such an amount of capital to said Superannuation Fund as shall place their Ministers on an equality with the Ministers of the said three Western Conferences.

3. No change shall be made in regard to the claims of any Minister holding a permanent Superannuated relation at the present time (*i. e.* 1882); and they shall receive on the basis of their present claims as far as the annual income will allow.

4. Income arising from Annual Collections and Subscriptions in all Congregations of the United Church, Annual Subscriptions by Ministers of the same, and any amount appropriated from time to time out of the funds of the Missionary Society, shall be used in meeting payments to all claimants on the fund, without distinction.

5. Income arising from the invested capital now held by the Methodist Church of Canada for this fund, and the amount annually received from the profits of the Toronto Book Room (until such time as the Publishing Interests of the other uniting Churches shall be amalgamated, and their assets equalized, with those of said Book Room), shall be used exclusively for the benefit of the claimants on the Superannuation Fund now connected with the Methodist Church of Canada, and the claims of Ministers now in the active work of that Church who may become superannuated after the Union.

6. The rule adopted above, in clause 5, shall apply, in the case of the Methodist Episcopal, Primitive Methodist, and Bible Christian Churches, in regard to any Book Room or other assets available for their respective Superannuation Funds, until the amalgamation referred to in said clause is accomplished.

7. So soon as the Methodist Episcopal, Primitive Methodist, or Bible Christian Churches shall furnish an amount of capital equal, in proportion, to that now held by the Methodist Church of Canada, the Superannuated Ministers of such uniting Churches, and those who may become Superannuates after Union, shall have a claim on the proceeds of the whole invested capital in common with those who are now Ministers of the Methodist Church of Canada.

8. If the income of any year shall not be sufficient to meet the claims in full, then all claimants shall share in the deficiency in porportion to the amount of their claim.

9. If any one of the three uniting Churches aforesaid shall fail to provide its full proportion of invested capital, Ministers of these Churches who are now, or may hereafter become, Superannuates, shall draw in proportion to the amount of capital actually provided.

10. In case of failure by any of the Churches above mentioned to provide invested capital, it shall be competent for any Minister of such Churches to provide his individual share of such capital, and thereafter to draw from the proceeds of the investments in the same manner as Superannuates of the present Methodist Church of Canada. This latter provision shall apply to any Minister now on the Superannuated lists of the Methodist Episcopal, Primitive Methodist, or Bible Christian Churches.

11. The principles embodied in the foregoing regulations shall be applied in adjusting the relations to the Supernumerary Ministers' Fund of the three Eastern Conferences, of any Ministers of the Bible Christian Church who may be included by the proposed Union in any of the said Conferences.

[NOTE.—A committee has been appointed, with power to employ an actuary if necessary, to make a careful estimate of the value of existing investments belonging to the Superannuation Funds, and report at the First General Conference.]

(II.) *The Missionary Fund.*—1. On the consummation of the Union there shall be one Missionary Fund for the whole Church.

2. The Missionary Society of the Methodist Church of Canada having no debt, and the income and expenditure being equal, no recommendation is necessary.

3. The Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church has a debt of $10,000, incurred in the purchase of property and the erection of Churches in Manitoba, the property being held by the Society as security for the debt. This debt is to be liquidated out of the assets of the Society, before the consummation of the Union.

4. The Missionary Society of the Bible Christian Church has a debt of $21,080, less about $3,000 on which annuities are paid at 6 per cent. per annum, which annuities will probably cease in a few years. As this debt was incurred in the purchase and erection of Mission Churches and Parsonages, it is considered a legitimate claim against such property. It is therefore agreed that the next Annual Conference of the Bible Christian Church shall make arrangements to distribute the Missionary debt among the several properties to erect or purchase which said debt has been incurred. And in case any property belonging to the Bible Christian Church be sold, the proceeds, after paying other debts of the Trust, shall be applied to the reduction of the said Missionary debt.

5. The above-mentioned debts being provided for as aforesaid, the Churches included in the Union are to unite on equal terms.

(III.) *The Contingent Fund.*—As the Invested Capital of the Contingent Fund of the Methodist Church of Canada belongs to the three Western Conferences of that Church, it is agreed that it be left to the said Conferences to propose a plan for dealing with said Investments, and report the same to the General Conference of the Methodist Church of Canada at the Special Session to be held before the Union is consummated. As the other Conferences and Churches have no such Invested Capital, all further action on the subject is referred to the first General Conference of the United Church.

(IV.) *The Children's Fund.*—As there are no Investments in connection with this fund in any of the Uniting Churches, it is agreed that the whole question be relegated to the first General Conference of the United Church to determine on what basis, if any, a Children's Fund shall be maintained.

V. BOOK AND PUBLISHING INTERESTS.

1. The Halifax Book Room and weekly paper shall be continued as at present, on account of their geographical position.

2. The Toronto Book Room, with its various publications, will also be maintained; and no serious difficulty is apprehended in the way of consolidating the other publishing interests in the West at an early date after the Union is effected.

3. As the assets of the Book and Publishing House of the Methodist Church of Canada for the three Western Conferences, are larger in proportion to the number of Ministers in those Conferences than the similar assets of any one of the other contracting parties, it is agreed that each Minister of the Methodist Episcopal, Primitive Methodist, and Bible Christian Churches, entering into the Union, shall pay into the general Publishing Fund such a sum as will make his interest equal to the *per capita* interest of the Ministers of the three Western Conferences aforesaid.

4. In equalizing the *per capita* interest as above, payments may be made in cash, or by notes, payable in one or two years from the date of Union; such notes to bear interest at six per cent per annum.

VI. EDUCATIONAL INTERESTS.

1. The Methodist Church of Canada and the Methodist Episcopal Church have a number of Educational Institutions in successful operation. The Primitive Methodist and Bible Christian Churches have no such institutions in this country.

2. The Educational Institutions in the Maritime Conferences present no difficulty in the way of Union, and no change is recommended in their present relations.

3. In regard to the Western Conferences, it is believed that those Institutions which possess University powers can be consolidated, to the honor of their graduates, and the advantage of their Educational work.

4. It is recommended that the united Church adhere to the traditional policy of Methodism in regard to education, believing that the best interests of the Church and of education imperatively demand that our Colleges and Universities should be under the fostering care of the Church.

VII.—MISCELLANEOUS RECOMMENDATIONS.

1. *Composition of the First General Conference.*—The General Conference of the Methodist Church of Canada having authorized the calling of a Special Session in 1883 to give effect to the Union, provided a satisfactory basis is secured, it is recommended,—

(*a*) That in case the Basis of Union is approved by the requisite majorities in the Quarterly Meetings and Annual Conferences of the Churches proposing to unite, it shall be competent for the Annual Conferences of the Methodist Episcopal, Primitive Methodist, and Bible Christian Churches, to elect Delegates to the First General Conference of the United Church, in the proportion of one out of ten Ministers in full connexion, with an equal number of Laymen, elected in Annual Conference or District Meeting as the case may be; and these, together with the Delegates composing the present General Conference of the Methodist Church of Canada, meeting in joint session after the latter body shall have closed the special session above alluded to, shall compose the First General Conference of the said United Church, with power to perform such Acts as may be necessary to the final ratification of the Union, and all other Acts which come within the province of a General Conference.

(*b*) The Annual Conferences and District Meetings of the Methodist Church of Canada shall have authority to fill vacancies that may have occurred in their delegations, either lay or clerical, by the usual mode of election.

2. *Expenses of General Conference.*—If the Basis of Union be approved, it is recommended that the various Annual Conferences make provision for taking up a collection in every congregation for the expenses of the First General Conference.

3. *Transfer of Ministers.*—The Joint Committee recommends to the First General Conference the matter of making provision for the transfer of Ministers from one Conference to another, so as to give all reasonable facilities for meeting the wants of the work.

4. *Time of first General Conference.*—In the event of the Basis of Union being approved, it is recommended that the first General Conference of the United Church be held in the Methodist Episcopal Tabernacle, in the City of Belleville, on the first Wednesday in September, 1883, commencing at nine o'clock in the forenoon.

5. *Name.*—The adoption of a name for the United Church is referred to the first General Conference; but the Committee recommend that it be called "The Methodist Church."

(CIRCULAR LETTER.)

To the Ministers and People of the Methodist Church of Canada, the Methodist Episcopal Church in Canada, the Primitive Methodist Church of Canada, and the Bible Christian Church of Canada.

DEARLY BELOVED BRETHREN AND FRIENDS:

As your fellow labourers in the ministry of the glorious Gospel and Pastors of the flock of Christ, we greet you affectionately, in the name of the Father, the Son, and the ever blessed Holy Spirit, praying earnestly that ye be enriched with all spiritual blessings in Christ, built up in Him, and established in the faith of the Gospel which has been declared unto you. And we are the more anxious concerning your welfare amid the agitations of our cherished Methodisms in these times, lest ye be led aside from singleness of purpose, humility of mind, and obedience to the truth, after the spirit of the world and the plans of men, and not after the mind and will of God. You all know that there has been an earnest desire, in many true hearts in our respective Churches, that the divided Methodisms of this country should be united into one Methodist Church, in order that the occasions for strife should be removed, that love might the more abound, that there might be less waste and better direction of the resources of the Church, and that the men God gives us to minister in word and doctrine might be the better employed to spread the common Saviour's name. We have all mourned over the conflicting interests on oppressed fields of labour, the scanty support of the Ministry by small and divided Societies, the erection of many houses of worship that a united people would never have required, the rivalry of denominations carrying precisely the same doctrines, and for the most part the same usages, into new mission fields, and the envy and ill-will too often engendered by the perpetuation of these divisions. For the removal of these occasions of the reproach of the adversaries, for the unity of the Spirit in the bonds of peace, for a wise and efficient direction of the resources of the Church in her men, her institutions, and her money, and for the consequent revival of the work of God, many sincere prayers have gone up from the members of all our Churches unto the living God, our Father in Heaven.

You also know that there are great difficulties in the way of the accomplishment of such a Union of the diverse branches of Methodism into one Methodist Church: difficulties, indeed, which no merely human thought, spirit, or plan could overcome. All the Churches have their cherished polity and principles of government and administration, second only in importance, in the view of good men maintaining them, to the doctrines of Holy Scripture themselves. Prejudices have arisen and strong feelings have been stirred: wherefore, it is often difficult for the most honest purpose to obtain a calm, impartial view. Worldly motives intervene, and selfish aims. Sometimes doubt, suspicion, and party spirit bias the judgment. The remembrance of injury, real or fancied, discolours the ray and beclouds the vision. How we need to pray to be delivered from ourselves and the mere influence of circumstances, and to be enabled to see the truth in its own clear light, and feel it in its own comfort and glow! In view of these formidable obstacles, we are confident that you will rejoice with us and give glory to God that, in our consultations just closing, the greatest harmony and brotherly love have abounded; and, whatever the issue, we have been able to see more clearly eye to eye, and our hearts have been drawn together in the fellowship of the Spirit and the fraternity of the Gospel of Christ.

The General Conferences, and constituted authorities of our several Churches, having affirmed the desirability of Union, appointed committees of brethren, faithful and beloved, to confer as to a basis of Union, and ascertain whether there be a common ground on which all the Churches interested could join in organic unity. The identity of our doctrines and rules of Society, and the similarity of our usages in many respects, gave us a favourable starting point. We could easily agree on the doctrines of the Holy Scriptures as understood by the people called Methodists, on the rules of our Societies as given by Mr. Wesley, the venerable founder of our common Methodism, on our usages of worship and means of grace, and on the excellency of the spirit of love. But the diversities of polity and principles of government, and the cherished peculiarities of the several Churches, gave to your committee the occasion of much study and prayer. One of the Churches has made prominent in its administration the maintenance of the rights of the Annual Conferences, and of the peculiar functions and privileges of the pastorate. Another has held unswervingly by the connexional idea, the supremacy of the General Conference, and the office and prerogatives of an Itinerant General Superintendency. The other two Churches have especially maintained the rights of the laity to representation in the Conferences and Courts of the Church. These central and fundamental positions of the Churches are reconcilable, are incorporated in the basis of Union, and, in our opinion, will all be found to be elements of safety, solidity, liberty, and power. This basis, in its regard for cherished principles and inalienable rights, proposes that these central and fundamental positions be preserved and constitute the common ground of unity, while peculiarities of less importance, in a spirit of mutual concession, are in most cases handed on to be arranged by the General Conference and constituted authorities of the United Church, should such Union, by your vote, allowance, and action, ever take place. The Missionary, Educational, and financial interests of the Churches, their Church property, Book Rooms, and publishing establishments gave us much concern, but we are persuaded that in them is no insuperable barrier to Union. The welfare of Ministers and Societies was in our thought to afford them all possible safeguards. The Superannuated Ministers are protected in their rights, and ordained men have secured to them the privileges and functions possessed within their respective Churches. It has been the careful and prayerful effort of your United Committees to discharge the sacred trust confided to them by their several Conferences and Churches; and guarding rights, principles, and important interests, to find if practicable according to their instructions, a basis on which the Methodist people of this Dominion might, under

God, unite in one Methodist Church for the spread of Scriptural holiness over these lands. With some degree of confidence that so desirable an end has been reached, with many prayers for divine guidance of all the Churches, with reliance upon the intelligence and loyalty of our respective memberships, with an expectation that undue prejudices will be laid aside, and the great issues of the hour calmly and candidly considered; with an admonition that our respective peoples under their own constitutions keep united and in the spirit of charity among themselves, and with the assurance that for ourselves we are, in the fear of God, heart and soul with our people within constitutional action and decision, we commend the basis of Union and all the interests that cluster about it to the honest scrutiny and thoughtful, godly determinations of the Churches, content to receive their solemn acceptance of it, or equally solemn rejection of it, as unto us the indication of Providence and the voice of God.

In the several Churches the basis of Union will be presented for action to the General and Annual Conferences, the Quarterly Meeting Conferences, and Official Meetings and Boards, and to the Societies and Members themselves, under the constitutional provisions in the respective Churches, and according to the direction of their separate constituted authorities, so that there may be the utmost fairness and freedom of discussion, that no improper advantage be taken, or unlawful bias given, and that the entire constituency affected in each case shall have the opportunity, under its own constitution, usage, and law, to employ voice and influence for or against its adoption, according to the solemn and conscientious conviction of duty, before God and His Church, in this important crisis of the history of our Methodisms. What greater dignity, what more weighty and awful charge and trust than this? Here is a vote passing far the importance of ordinary civil and political affairs among men. It involves much of the power, success, and destiny of the Church of God. What an immense responsibility is placed hereby upon every member and friend of our Zion. Shall we not be much in prayer before God, touching our present duties? Shall we not seek counsel of the Most High? Dare we allow personal or worldly feelings or issues, or impulses of pride, jealousy, or ill will to intervene in a business of this character? Are we not in duty bound to walk in the light as God himself is in the light, and seek to possess all the mind of meekness, obedience, and love that was in Christ, our Saviour and Lord? How else shall we discharge the solemn obligations of these eventful times? The past is looking upon us with its many breaches to be repaired, mistakes corrected, and ills remedied, notwithstanding its many successes, for which we joyfully give glory to God. The present is looking upon us in the cordial desire and interest of all Evangelical Christendom in this movement, and especially in the prayerful and brotherly sympathy and regard of all the Methodisms of both hemispheres. The future is looking to us with its enlarging demands, opening doors, and increasing facilities in the work of God; with its call for the maintenance and spread of the peculiar doctrines of our Methodism, a free, full, present, instant, perfect, and eternal salvation to faith and obedience; and with its grand promise and prospects of the multiplying victories of the cross, for the economy of our resources at home, and the proper direction of our energies to the salvation of men here in this fast-peopling Dominion, and to the remotest parts of the earth. The missionaries and martyrs of all ages, the Holy Angels, Christ, the Head of the Church, and the Adorable Father and Holy Spirit are looking upon us, that what we do we do it not as unto ourselves, but as unto the Lord; that we do our best to unite ourselves, our cherished principles and powers, our resources and enterprises in the love of God, and in the faith and hope of the glorious gospel. Seeing we are encompassed about by so great a cloud of witnesses, be it ours to lay aside every weight, and the sins that so easily beset us; and, whether accepting or rejecting the basis of Union, let us decide every question regarding it as in the presence of the Lord, and in view of that day when every one of us shall give account of himself to God. Constrained of the love of Christ and zeal for the souls of men, we must cease unseemly strife, and on a basis of brotherly and mutual regard, and Christian honour and right—which we think the basis herewith submitted to be—we must be drawn together and established not only in the unity of the Spirit and bonds of peace, but in an organic and visible unity to the confounding of the adversaries of Christ, the demonstration of the work of the Spirit and the glory of God the Father. And as your pastors and servants, for Christ's sake, we shall earnestly and continually pray that the Holy Ghost descend upon us all, and fill us with the love of God, enlighten every mind, and purify every heart; and that He guide our Churches to the wisest and safest results to the praise of His glory. And to God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be praise forever.

Signed by order of, and in behalf of, the Joint Committee on the Union of the Methodist Churches of this Country.

S. D. RICE,
President of the General Conference of the Methodist Church of Canada.

J. GOODMAN,
President of the Primitive Methodist Church in Canada.

W. PASCOE,
President of the Bible Christian Church of Canada.

A. CARMAN,
Bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Canada—Chairman of Committee.

ALEX. SUTHERLAND,
Secretary of Committee.

TORONTO, *December 6th, 1882.*